



Basic Orientation Guide

From the Our Amazing Grace Foundation

1. Basic Steps to Get Started in Foster Care

What is Foster Care?

Foster care means opening your home to provide temporary care for children and youth who need protection, stability, love, and support while work is done to reunite their family or establish a permanent plan for their future.

Each state has different requirements, but the heart of the process is the same:

- * Prepare.
- * Educate yourself.
- * Get licensed.
- * Serve with love.

Something Very Important About Foster Care

It is important to understand that foster care is temporary.

In most cases, the primary goal is:

- * For the child to return to their parents.

- * For the biological family to heal.
- * To resolve the situation that caused the child to enter the foster care system.

Foster families play a vital role by providing:

- * Safety.
- * Stability.
- * Love.
- * Emotional support.

...while the child and their family go through a difficult process.

Basic Steps to Become a Foster Family

1. Get Informed and Pray

Before you begin:

- * Learn what foster care is.
- * Discuss the commitment as a family.
- * Pray and seek God's guidance.
- * Assess whether your home and lifestyle are ready to serve.

2. Seek Information and Contact an Agency or the State

Each state has different agencies and programs.

You can work:

- * Directly with the state.
- * Or with a licensed private agency.

They will guide you regarding:

- * Requirements.
- * Classes.
- * Licensing.
- * Documentation.
- * Process timeline. How to Search on Google

Search examples:

- * “How to become a foster parent in Florida”
- * “Foster care licensing agency near me”
- * “Department of Children and Families foster care”
- * “Foster care agencies in my state”
- * “How to become a foster parent in Texas”
- * “Foster care orientation near me”

What to Look For

Verify that the agency:

- * Is licensed.
- * Provides official training.
- * Clearly explains the process.
- * Offers family support.
- * Works with the state or is state-approved.

Questions You Can Ask

- * How do I start the process?
- * How long does it take to get licensed?
- * What are the requirements?
- * What classes do I need to take?
- * How does foster care work in this state?
- * Can I start with an orientation?

3. Participate in Training

Every foster family must receive training.

You will learn about:

- * Childhood trauma.
- * Therapeutic parenting.

- * Emotional behaviors.
- * Home safety.
- * How to support family reunification.

Education is an essential part of the calling.

4. Complete the Licensing Process

This generally includes:

- * Background checks.
- * Fingerprinting.
- * Family interviews.
- * Home assessment.
- * Safety inspection.
- * Personal references.
- * Basic medical exams.

5. Prepare Your Home

It is not about having a perfect house.

It is about creating:

- * A safe environment.
- * A clean space.
- * Emotional stability.
- * Love, patience, and structure.

6. Prepare Emotionally and Spiritually

Children may come with:

- * Pain.
- * Loss.
- * Trauma.
- * Fear.

- * Insecurity.

The foster family must be prepared to:

- * Love with patience.
- * Serve with grace.
- * Maintain hope.
- * Provide support during difficult processes.

7. Receive Your License and Wait for a Placement

Once the process is approved:

- * Your home will be ready to welcome children.
- * Calls can come in at any time.
- * Every case is different.

8. Work as a Team

You don't do foster care alone.

You will work alongside:

- * Social workers.
- * Therapists.
- * Schools.
- * Doctors.
- * Churches.
- * Other foster families.

Our Vision:

At Our Amazing Grace Foundation, we believe every child deserves:

- * Love.
- * Safety.
- * Hope.
- * A home filled with grace.

*** People willing to say:**

“You are not alone.”